

Highland Sojourner

Volume V, Issue III

Newsletter of the Pine Mountain Trail Conference, Inc. June-August 2004

www.pinemountaintrail.com

Bulletin Board

Volunteer Vacations

September 12-18, 2004

October 10-16, 2004

(Contact Shirley Hearn at the American Hiking Society (301) 565-6704 or at www.americanhiking.org The PMTC can waive the fee for those volunteering directly thru the PMTC.)

Weekend Getaways

October 9, 2004

*(Weekend Getaways are designed for those who work a full time job. Volunteers come in on Friday evening; camp at a site we have prepared, work on Saturday, and return home on Sunday. For more information, contact the PMTC, P.O. Box 784, Whitesburg, KY 41858. *There is no fee and food is provided.)*

Pine Mountain Trail Conference Meeting

September 21, 2004 at 1 PM at the Hensley Settlement in Bell County, KY. For more info, call (606) 633-2362. Attendees must arrive by 10 AM at the Cumberland Gap Visitor's Center so that we can shuttle folks up. The shuttle will have us to the Settlement by 11 AM and we can hike around the 2 mile loop trail. ***Pack your own lunch and drink!***



*Black Bear Cub on Pine Mountain
Photo by Jennifer McDaniels*

Words from the Woods by Shad Baker

The night sounds of field and black-horned tree crickets joins the eternal argument of katydids as summer begins to cool into autumn. Foggy valleys conceal the feet of the Pine as she slips into her fall spectacle.

One day is sunny, another it rains. Winter is cold, summer is hot. All things work in cycles. The same cycles carry over into other aspects of life, including trail projects. One day things are going full speed ahead, another day, they are slowed to a near stand-still.

Fortunately, our lull appears to be ending. For much of the last year or two, things seemed to be stagnant and progress was less visible. Oh sure, the trail was gaining in length, and more visitors were pouring onto the trail, but the financial situation looked tight.

Now I'm sure there are a few naive souls out there who think to themselves,

“How hard can it be? It’s just a foot-trail!” Allow me to share a little secret. There is no such thing as a small, easy project when it comes to public agencies, private lands, or fund raising. We might as well be building a 1 million acre reservoir (with donations) in the middle of an early American settlement adjacent to lands owned by the president and leased to the military.

These are the times that my papaw would say, “Keep on suckin’ ‘til you do suck seed”. Or was that “succeed”? His stories were often witty and multi-faceted. At the time, the story was seemingly about farming and an automatic seeder, but I think in his dry, seasoned with life, sense of humor, he meant to keep knocking on doors and staying close to folks who can help you out. This has certainly been true for us.

We are about to receive \$40,000 in construction funds from the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

These funds will help us clean, renovate and re-vegetate the trail from Mullins Pond to Bryant Gap on the Birch Knob Section. The Kentucky Department of Parks has authorized Vaughn & Melton Engineering to do property work on the ‘Wilderness Road Section’ from Cumberland Gap to Pine Mountain State Park. This should mean that, at some point in the next year or so, we will soon be building the trail to connect these two tourism hotspots. As if all this weren’t good enough, we will also be getting cleared to draw from our \$100,000 in TCSP grant funds and will likely be getting Americorps Volunteers within the next nine months. Succeed!



*A Mid-Summer Hike near Bear Rock
Photo by Harold Jerrell*

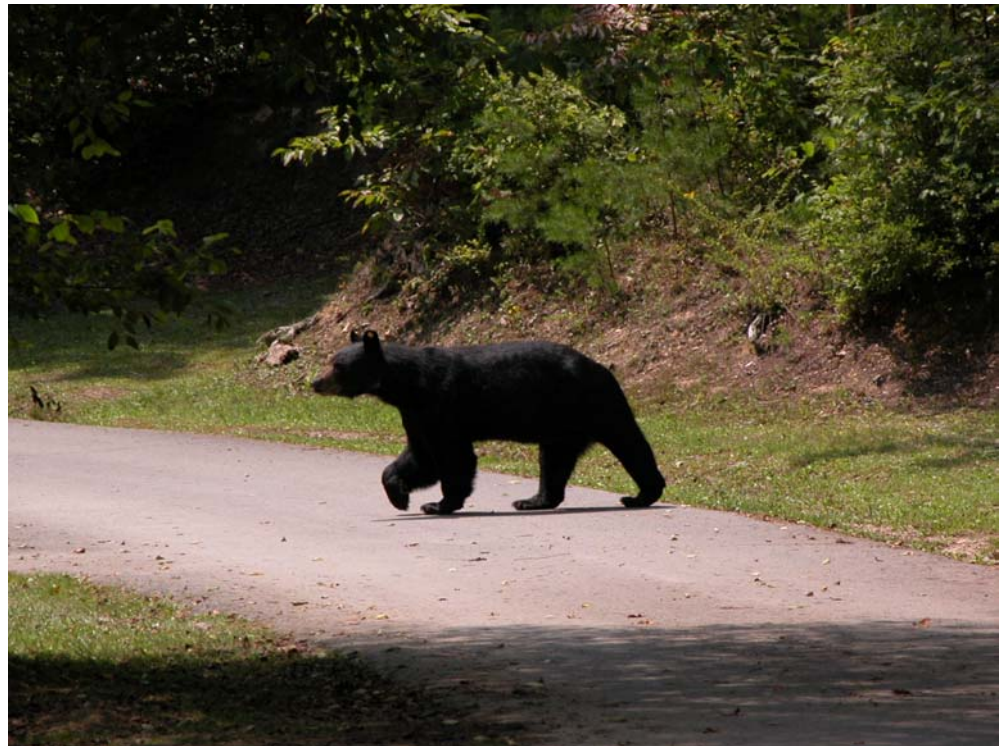
Bear Watchin’ is Popular at Kingdom Come by Jeremy Williams

As the sun was setting over Pine Mountain, my dad and I were making a trek through the quiet serene Kingdom Come State Park in Cumberland. During our first trip through the Park, that evening, from the lake to the manager’s office and out to Creech Overlook, we stopped to talk to a few “regulars” that are a mainstay every evening at the Park. Midway through our first trip we stopped and chatted with Park Ranger, Danny Quillen, and he informed us that everything was “quiet in the Park today.” Little did we know that was all about to change.

My dad and I were just out and about that evening and we decided to go to the Park in hopes of seeing a black bear. Just a few weeks before, on a visit to the Park we spotted a male black bear and had hopes of seeing him again. That night we and several other folks watched the bear as he made his way from the ball field down to the upper shelter where he disappeared into a thicket of Mountain Laurel. That night was just a taste of what we would see on this evening of May 7, 2004.

During our second trip through the Park that evening, we were flagged down, just short of the 12 o'clock Overlook, by a friend of ours that was very excited. He said, "If you want to see a bear, follow me!" Well, we did follow him. I had no idea where this wild goose chase would end up, until we arrived at Halcomb Overlook. When we pulled in behind his van, he pointed out the window to a tree with black bear cubs in it. As the cubs ran up the tree, instructed by their momma standing at the bottom, I started taking photos. When the cubs finally stopped midway up the tree, we began to count them 1...2...3...4...5...FIVE CUBS! We watched, from a safe distance, as the cubs frolicked out on the limbs of the tree and we listened as their momma talked to them. As I continued to take photos of the cubs, a couple of more cars came up the hill and joined in on the "bear watch." After a few more minutes of my wondering where he was, Ranger Quillen pulled up next to us and my dad informed him about the five (5) cubs in the tree. He looked over at the tree and you couldn't have knocked the grin off his face when he turned back to us. He along with the rest of us just sat in our vehicles, amazed, as we watched this quintuplet of bear cubs bounce around in that tree while momma bear watched safely from below. During the excitement, Ranger Quillen borrowed my cell phone to call his partner, Park Ranger, Chris Early, to tell him "we have a female bear in the Park that has five (5) cubs." Shortly after the phone conversation, the female bear decided it was time to move on so she took her five cubs and left. The next place she showed up at that evening, cubs in tow, was at the picnic area across from the 12 o'clock Overlook. There she showed a different group of folks her five cubs. After a short visit there, she and the cubs disappeared into the black, Pine Mountain forest.

Being spotted by two different groups of people, the excitement began to build and word began to spread about these five cubs. The following two days, Saturday and Sunday, the female bear and her cubs came out to explore the Park. While out and about they were seen by several people with cameras in hand. Since that time she has been spotted on several occasions. With the sightings, along with local media stories about the bear in the area, the number of visitors to the Park wanting to see this bear has increased.



*Black Bear at Kingdom Come State Park, KY
Photo by Jeremy Williams*

Folks from around the region have come to Kingdom Come in hopes of seeing a black bear. I've talked to people from all over Harlan County, neighboring counties, and even neighboring states that ask the same questions, "where are the bears at" or "when do the bears show up." With the number of people now visiting the Park to see a bear, I tip my hat to the employees of Kingdom Come State Park; Park Rangers Early and Quillen and Park Manager, Rick Fuller, and staff, for making the Park a safe, clean, and enjoyable place to visit.

Fundraising Update by Pat Bradley

Presented by Pat Bradley - August 1st, 2004

Proposals Submitted in July 2004:

Foundation Name	Location	Contact Made	Result / Response
Corning Inc. Foundation	Corning, NY	Submitted request for equipment purchases funding	<u>PENDING – No deadlines; Board meets Sept & Nov – Notification is sent out within 6 weeks</u>
Cralle Foundation	Louisville, KY	Submitted request for general oper support	<u>PENDING – no timeline given</u>
CLARCOR Foundation	Rockford, IL	Submitted letter of inquiry req funds for staff position	<u>PENDING</u>
Intuit Foundation	Mountain View, CA	Submitted letter of inquiry requesting funds for staff position	<u>PENDING – There is no timeline / deadlines</u>
McGlothlin Foundation	Bristol, VA	Submitted proposal for equipment purchases	<u>PENDING – Board meets in December</u>
Norfolk Southern Foundation	Norfolk, VA	Submitted proposal for staff position funding	PENDING – Submissions are accepted between July 15 and Sept 30; Notifications are sent out 90 days thereafter.
Packard Fnd (David & Lucile)	Los Altos, CA	Submitted proposal for equipment purchases	PENDING – Next Board meeting is in September
Patagonia Inc	Ventura, CA	Submitted proposal requesting funding for equipment purchases	PENDING – Submissions are accepted only in August (proposal was sent end of July). Will send a post card acknowledging receipt with est. determination date.
Thompson Charitable Fnd	Knoxville, TN	Submitted proposal requesting funding for staff position	PENDING – Deadline is Sept 30 th , notification thereafter.
Vulcan Materials Company Fnd	Birmingham, AL	Submitted proposal requesting funding for general operating support (staff position)	PENDING – No deadlines, no timelines were given.
Warrington Foundation	Cincinnati, OH	Submitted proposal requesting funding for staff position	PENDING – no deadlines or timelines
Wayne G. Basler Charitable Fnd	Kingsport, TN	Submitted full proposal (staff position funds)	PENDING – Deadline is Sept 30 th , response thereafter
West Wind Foundation	Charlottesville, VA	Submitted initial letter of intent and request for funding for staff position	Proposal was declined (rec'd notice July 23 rd , '04)
Winslow Foundation	Washington, DC	Submitted initial letter of intent and request for funding for staff position	Proposal was declined – Rec'd letter 7-28-04
Wyss Foundation	Sante Fe, NM & Paoli, PA	Submitted initial letter of intent and request for funding for staff position	PENDING – No deadlines or timelines given

Updates on recently submitted proposals:

Foundation Name	Location	Contact Made	Result / Response
Ben & Jerry's Foundation	S Burlington, VT	Submitted initial letter of intent & cover form req'd	PENDING – Nov 1 st deadline – Response expected within 12 weeks
Blue Grass Community Fnd	Lexington, KY	Re-wrote and submitted new proposal (Hwy 119	*****FUNDING HAS BEEN GRANTED FOR \$2,000 toward this trailhead parking lot!!

		trailhead constr.)	Rec'd awards letter 6-29, received funds in early July.
E. O Robinson Mountain Fund	Lexington, KY	Submitted proposal requesting operating support (staff position)	PENDING – Board meets every 4 months. <i>**** July 27th – I spoke to contact there, and our request will be presented to the Board at their November meeting!! Sounded very hopeful!!</i>
Ford Foundation	New York, NY	Submitted proposal requesting seed monies for staff position	<u>Declined</u>
Gheens Foundation	Louisville, KY	Submitted proposal requesting operating support (staff position)	PENDING – Received a letter stating that the PMTC proposal is under consideration, and <i>will be presented to Board at their Sept meeting!!!</i>
Kodak American Greenways	Arlington, VA	Submitted proposal requesting funds to continue trail development	PENDING – Decision will be made in early August
Lowe's Store	Wise, VA	Submitted a materials list for shelter construction	Pending - Waiting for a response. Store manager has to work through corporate offices. <i>(August update – about ready to give up! Still can't get any info....)</i>
Ludwick Family Foundation	Glendora, CA	Submitted proposal requesting equipment purchases	PENDING – Deadline is Aug 31 st . Will send out notifications after that date.
Mars Foundation	McLean, VA	Submitted Letter of Interest and required cover application form	PENDING – Notification by January 2005
Martin Marietta Philanthropic Trust	Charlotte, NC	Submitted proposal requesting operating support (staff position)	PENDING – Open submissions (no deadlines) – not sure of response timeline
Norcross Wildlife Foundation	Wales, MA	Submitted proposal requesting equipment purchases	PENDING – Should receive initial notification within 30 days
Surdna Foundation	New York, NY	Submitted proposal requesting operating support (staff position)	Declined
Wallace Global Fund	Washington, DC	Submitter Letter of Interest and Concept Paper	PENDING – Board meets three times per year, but neither dates nor deadlines were given.
Wichita Falls Area Community Fnd	Wichita Falls, TX	Submitted proposal / letter of intent requesting equipment purchases	Declined due to cutbacks in funding resources. Currently restricting their funding to local area.

Proposals in production, to be submitted at a later date / later deadlines:

Foundation Name	Location	Contact Made	Result / Response
Frank & Mattie Justice Charitable Fnd	Pikeville, KY	Spoke to contact there July 29 th	Sending Application Form & Guidelines. Deadline is Sept 1 st – <i>Had a very positive conversation and the contact I spoke to said it seems PMTC does fit within their guidelines!! Encouraged to submit application / proposal as soon as I receive the materials.</i>
Nonprofit Mgmt Initiative Grant Program	Lexington, KY	Letter of Inquiry was sent – 03/04	This is through Blue Grass Community Fund – I've rec'd 2004 funding guidelines and am currently working on a proposal. Deadline for submission is Sept 20 th .

Steele-Reese Foundation	Lexington, KY	Letter of Inquiry was sent – 03/04	The proposal deadline was March 1 st – so we missed out on applying for this funding year. However, it was requested that I contact them in Dec 2004 or Jan 2005 for applying next year. They felt that PMTC would fit within their funding guidelines.
Lyndhurst Foundation	Chattanooga, TN		Submitted a proposal in May '04, but they'd already allocated available funds for 2004. Need to check with them for new funding priorities and guidelines in Nov/Dec '04 and re-apply if appropriate at that time.
RTP (Recreational Trails Program)			Have just received the guidelines and materials for applying. Deadline is October 1 st .
Earth Friends Wildlife Foundation	Jackson, WY	Sent letter of inquiry	

Other work done in July 2004:

a.) Memberships:

- 1.) **Have continued to receive memberships and renewals during month of July, 2004. Have processed these as they come in.**
- 2.) **Have kept database updated with information on letters ret'd undeliverable, and with memberships paid. Have also tried to make contact to get new info from any letters ret'd.**
- 3.) **Through end of July, 2004, we've rec'd \$1,045 in membership dues from this mailing.**

b.) WMMT Radio – Live talk show about PMTC on Tuesday, July 27th 7pm-8pm – Roy, Dee, Kenny and Pat

Lands Update

The Kentucky Department of Parks has authorized Vaughn & Melton Engineering of Middlesboro to proceed with property research on the section of trail from Cumberland Gap to Pine Mountain State Park. This 'Wilderness Road Section' will be roughly 10 miles long and will parallel the route Daniel Boone and thousands of others took to settle frontier Kentucky. Recent communications with John Schneider indicate that the work hasn't yet begun, but hopefully will very soon.

This stretch of trail was chosen because it can stand alone, regardless of how long it takes to tie in with the rest of the trail. Another benefit is that local folks (Boy Scouts, Union College, etc. have demonstrated a strong desire to get started in Bell County.

Other news on lands will be provided at the Hensley Settlement by Carey Tichenor of the Kentucky Department of Parks.

Trail Construction Update

Progress on trail construction has slowed this summer, with most of the work focusing on scouting and routing trips. Recent outings with the USFS and Kyle Napier of the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission reveal that the trail should go smoothly for the next six months.

The work last performed by the June AHS crew has the trail within roughly three quarters of a mile of the Bad Branch Trail system. The route will intersect the system where it tops the spur ridge before dropping into Ran Polly Gap. Fortunately, there is already a trail of sorts present, so the work for 500+ yards will largely be brushing, duffing, and painting blazes.

With two crews left this year (including a sizeable group in October), the goal is to make the connection by this fall. Look for a nice hike from US 119 all the way to High Rock by this November.

Closing Thoughts

Special thanks to the folks who have served on the Board, the Volunteer Vacations, Weekend Getaways, our Webmaster, and those who have advised us at every turn. A very special thanks goes to the folks with the National Park Service, RTCA program for guiding us through the early years and making critical suggestions.

Membership

Volunteer Class	\$0, at least one day spent doing trail work
Individual Class	\$25-49
Trailblazer Class	\$50-99, free cap
Highlander Class	\$100-499, cap and fleece jacket
Pinnacle Class	\$500-999, cap, fleece jacket, & button-up shirt
Legacy Class	\$1,000-4,999, 2 caps, 2 jackets, & 2 shirts
Foundation Class	\$5,000+

*Membership entitles you to a one- year subscription to the *Highland Sojourner*, the bimonthly newsletter of the Pine Mountain Trail Conference, Inc. and an embroidered patch.

Please *circle* the membership class you are requesting.

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
E-mail: _____



**Make checks payable to:
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(606) 633-2362**